

REMARKS

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1. *Status of claims*

After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-12 and 15-28 are pending and under examination.

2. *Support for amendments*

The above amendments of claims 20-24 incorporate in a Markush group the limitations previously recited by claims 21-24 into claim 20. Claims 21-24 are amended to conform with amended claim 20. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

3. *Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102*

The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ma et al., US 5,412,031 ("Ma"). By the above amendment, claim 20 recites a Markush group of further limitations previously recited by claims 21-24. The Examiner objected to claims 21-24 as being dependent on a rejected base claim (claim 20). Applicants submit Ma does not recite every element of claim 20 as amended and request this rejection of claim 20 be withdrawn.

4. *Claim objections*

The Examiner objected to claims 21-24 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but indicated the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit the amendment of claim 20 removes the basis for rejection of the base claim of claims 21-24 and that the basis for this objection to claims 21-24 has been removed.

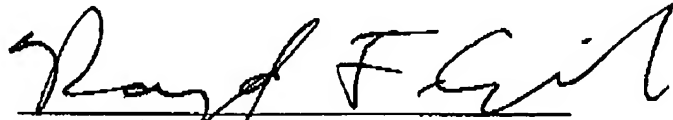
BEST AVAILABLE COPY**5. Conclusion**

Applicants submit all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned patent agent at (713) 934-4065 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C.
CUSTOMER NO. 37774

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Raymund F. Elich, Ph.D.

Reg. No. 42,508

10333 Richmond, Suite 1100

Houston, Texas 77042

(713) 934-4065

(713) 934-7011 (fax)

AGENT FOR APPLICANTS